GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:219
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2001
DISPARITY IN WAGES
THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the disparity in wages of rural and urban labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Union Government propose to take to bring parity into the wages of rural and urban labour?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT FOR THE LOKSABHASTARREDQUESTIONNO.219 ON DISPARITYIN WAGES OF RURAL AND URBAI LABOUR DUE FOR ANSWER ON 12.03.2001.

(a) to (c): The average wages in rural areas are generally lower than those in the urban areas due to factors attributable to cost of living, productivity, paying capacity etc. The Centrala s well as State Governments fix/revise the minimum wages i n scheduled employments as per provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to safeguard the interest of workers engaged mostly in the unorganised sector. There is, however, disparity in the minimum wages in various States/UTs due to differences in socio-economic and agro- climatic conditions, cost of living etc. With a view to reduce the disparities within the Region the Central Government have issued guidelines for setting up Regional Minimum Wages Advisory Committees.

In the absence of a uniform minimum wage in the country, the Central Government floated the concept of a national floor level minimum wage and fixed it at Rs.35/- per day in 1996 based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour (1991) and subsequent rise in the price level. The national floor level wage was last revised to Rs.45/- per day with effect from 30.11.1999 to neutralise further rise in the Consumer Price Index.No other steps are contemplated beyond this to bring parity into the wages of rural and urban labour.